

Michael A. Blackledge  
14321 Stalgren Ct., NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87123-2209  
[Mike@Blackledge.com](mailto:Mike@Blackledge.com)

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Naval Academy Preparatory School  
Attn: Prof Stephen E Arendt, Registrar  
440 Meyerkord Avenue  
Newport, RI 02841

Prof Arendt,

Thank you for your letter of 10 Feb 2017 and for providing the copy of the SECNAV Instructions dated 18 Aug 1919 and signed by FDR (acting). I am pleased to learn that NAPS has access to some of these early documents relating to their formal establishment.

I note these instructions were issued well after the 1915 date given by Wikipedia and other sources as to the origin date for NAPS.

You indicated that if I shared information, it would be appreciated. I am enclosing a short bio I have to date on **Robert Lincoln Werntz**. I was introduced to this name from an advertisement on page 531 of the 1920 Lucky Bag I received from my father. That ad is captured in the attached as well; please note that it specifies the school name as **U.S. Naval Academy Preparatory School, Annapolis, Maryland**. Certainly there are other prep schools, even in the Annapolis area, at this time but this name is obviously intriguing.

I find that the Lucky Bags are now available on-line via archive.org; for example, you can view and full-text search the entire Lucky Bag for the Class of 1920 on-line; available if you Google for the term: Lucky Bag 1920. Whatever I find for Prof Werntz, I am collecting under his FindAGrave.com memorial for which I now have maintenance control. If you go to FindAGrave.com, the memorial for Robert Lincoln Werntz is #**145334182**.

I have emailed Prof Ruth, the Department Chair for the History Department at USNA, asking him if his faculty or Honor students have accomplished research in respect to this particular Preparatory School. In particular, I would be interested in what facility it used, if there is a registry of pupils, specifically who was admitted to the Academy after passing the entrance exam, and if a sample entrance exam from these early days is available.

You suggested Navy Locator as a source – what is that? On-line? If you can provide me with your email address, I will share whatever I receive of import on this subject in the future. I can be reached at the email address in the header. If you know of any NAPS grads that are now on the faculty or History majors in the History Dept, it may be to our advantage. Thank you again for your response.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Blackledge, USNA Class of 1963

[mike@blackledge.com](mailto:mike@blackledge.com)

[Blackie@1963.usna.com](mailto:Blackie@1963.usna.com)